IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended): A method in a data processing system, comprising:

rendering a three-dimensional environment on a client computer associated with a first participant to form a rendered three-dimensional environment;

receiving shared data from a client computer associated with a second participant, wherein the shared data ~~including~~ includes information to be shared between the second participant and the first participant and orientation information ~~from a server~~ that indicates where in the three-dimensional environment the second participant wishes to present the shared data; and

displaying a virtual representation of the shared data in the rendered three-dimensional environment on the client computer associated with the first participant based on the orientation information.

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2. (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein the shared data includes two-dimensional data.

3. (Original): The method of claim 2, wherein the virtual representation is a surface texture image.

4. (Original): The method of claim 3, wherein the three-dimensional environment includes at least one three-dimensional object and the step of displaying a virtual representation comprises:

applying the surface texture image to the three-dimensional object.

5. (Original): The method of claim 4, wherein the orientation information identifies the three-dimensional object.

6. (Original): The method of claim 2, wherein the two-dimensional data comprises one of a word processing document, a spreadsheet document, and a presentation document.

7. (Original): The method of claim 2, wherein the two-dimensional data comprises a uniform resource locator.

8. (Original): The method of claim 1, further comprising executing an external application to decode the shared data to form the virtual representation of the shared data.

9. (Original): The method of claim 8, wherein the external application is a plug-in application.

10. (Original): The method of claim 8, wherein the shared data includes a wrapper application and the step of executing an external application comprises executing the wrapper application.

11. (Currently Amended): The method of claim 1, further comprising:

performing a modification to the shared data;

generating a shared data update event indicating the modification; and

sending the shared data update event to ~~the server~~ at least one other participant.

12. (Currently Amended): The method of claim 1, wherein the shared data includes access control information indicating an access control level for ~~a user~~ the first participant.

13. (Original): The method of claim 12, wherein the access control level is one of ownership, authorship, viewership, monitorship, and blind.

14. (Currently Amended): The method of claim 12, further comprising:

receiving a request to modify the shared data; and

determining whether the ~~user~~ first participant has a sufficient access control level.

15. (Currently Amended): The method of claim 14, further comprising modifying the shared data if the ~~user~~ first participant has a sufficient access control level.

16. (Currently Amended): The method of claim 14, further comprising notifying the ~~user~~ first participant of insufficient access control if the ~~user~~ first participant does not have a sufficient access control level.

17. (Currently Amended): The method of claim 1, further comprising:

receiving a shared data update event indicating a modification to the shared data;

modifying the shared data according to the shared data update event to form modified data; and

displaying a modified representation of the modified data in the rendered three-dimensional environment.

18. (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein the shared data is three-dimensional data.

19. (Original): The method of claim 18, wherein the virtual representation is a three-dimensional object.

20. (Original): The method of claim 18, wherein the orientation information identifies a location and orientation for the virtual representation in the three-dimensional environment.

21. (Currently Amended): A method in a data processing system, comprising:

rendering a three-dimensional environment on a client computer associated with a first participant to form a rendered three-dimensional environment;

receiving shared data from a client computer associated with a second participant, wherein the shared data ~~including~~ includes information to be shared between the second participant and the first participant and access control information indicating an access control level for ~~a user from a server~~ the first participant; and

displaying a virtual representation of the shared data in the rendered three-dimensional environment on the client computer associated with the first participant based on the access control level of the ~~user~~ first participant.

22. (Original): The method of claim 21, wherein the access control level is one of an ownership access control level, an authorship access control level, a viewership access control level, a monitorship access control level, and a blind access control level.

23. (Currently Amended): The method of claim 21, further comprising:

receiving a request to modify the shared data; and

determining whether the ~~user~~ first participant has a sufficient access control level based on the access control information.

24. (Currently Amended): The method of claim 23, further comprising modifying the shared data if the ~~user~~ first participant has a sufficient access control level.

25. (Currently Amended): The method of claim 24, further comprising:

generating a shared data update event indicating the modification; and

sending the shared data update event to ~~the server~~ at least one other participant.

26. (Currently Amended): The method of claim 23, further comprising notifying the ~~user~~ first participant of insufficient access control if the ~~user~~ first participant does not have a sufficient access control level.

27. (Currently Amended): The method of claim 21, further comprising:

receiving a shared data update event indicating a modification to the shared data;

modifying the shared data according to the shared data update event to form modified data; and

displaying a modified representation of the modified data in the rendered three-dimensional environment based on the access control level of the ~~user~~ first participant.

28. (Currently Amended): A method in a data processing system, comprising:

presenting a graphical user interface on a client computer associated with a first participant;

rendering a three-dimensional environment from the perspective of [[a]] the first participant in the graphical user interface to form a rendered three-dimensional environment, the three-dimensional environment including an avatar representing a second participant;

receiving a selection of the avatar from the first participant in the graphical user interface;

receiving a selection, in the graphical user interface, of a file to be transferred from the client computer associated with the first participant; and

transferring the file to a client computer associated with the second participant.

29. (Original): The method of claim 28, further comprising:

sending a transfer request to the second participant;

receiving an acceptance from the second participant;

wherein the step of transferring the file to a client computer is performed in response to receiving the acceptance.

30. (Currently Amended): An apparatus, comprising:

rendering means for rendering a three-dimensional environment on a client computer associated with a first participant to form a rendered three-dimensional environment;

receipt means for receiving shared data from a client computer associated with a second participant, wherein the shared data ~~including~~ includes information to be shared between the second participant and the first participant and orientation information ~~from a server~~ that indicates where in the three-dimensional environment the second participant wishes to present the shared data; and

display means for displaying a virtual representation of the shared data in the rendered three-dimensional environment on the client computer associated with the first participant based on the orientation information.

31. (Original): The apparatus of claim 30, wherein the shared data includes two-dimensional data.

32. (Original): The apparatus of claim 31, wherein the virtual representation is a surface texture image.

33. (Original): The apparatus of claim 32, wherein the three-dimensional environment includes at least one three-dimensional object and the display means comprises:

means for applying the surface texture image to the three-dimensional object.

34. (Original): The apparatus of claim 33, wherein the orientation information identifies the three-dimensional object.

35. (Original): The apparatus of claim 30, further comprising execution means for executing an external application to decode the shared data to form the virtual representation of the shared data.

36. (Original): The apparatus of claim 35, wherein the external application is a plug-in application.

37. (Original): The apparatus of claim 36, wherein the shared data includes a wrapper application and the execution means comprises means for executing the wrapper application.

38. (Currently Amended): The apparatus of claim 30, further comprising:

means for performing a modification to the shared data;

means for generating a shared data update event indicating the modification; and

means for sending the shared data update event to ~~the server~~ at least one other participant.

39. (Currently Amended): The apparatus of claim 30, further comprising:

means for receiving a shared data update event indicating a modification to the shared data;

means for modifying the shared data according to the shared data update event to form modified data; and

means for displaying a modified representation of the modified data in the rendered three-dimensional environment.

40. (Original): The apparatus of claim 30, wherein the shared data is three-dimensional data.

41. (Original): The apparatus of claim 40, wherein the virtual representation is a three-dimensional object.

42. (Original): The apparatus of claim 40, wherein the orientation information identifies a location and orientation for the virtual representation in the three-dimensional environment.

43. (Currently Amended): An apparatus, comprising:

rendering means for rendering a three-dimensional environment on a client computer associated with a first participant to form a rendered three-dimensional environment;

receipt means for receiving shared data from a client computer associated with a second participant, wherein the shared data ~~including~~ includes information to be shared between the second participant and the first participant and access control information indicating an access control level for ~~a user from a server~~ the first participant; and

display means for displaying a virtual representation of the shared data in the rendered three-dimensional environment on the client computer associated with the first participant based on the access control level of the ~~user~~ first participant.

44. (Original): The apparatus of claim 43, wherein the access control level is one of an ownership access control level, an authorship access control level, a viewership access control level, a monitorship access control level, and a blind access control level.

45. (Currently Amended): The apparatus of claim 43, further comprising:

means for receiving a request to modify the shared data; and

means for determining whether the ~~user~~ first participant has a sufficient access control level based on the access control information.

46. (Currently Amended): The apparatus of claim 45, further comprising means for modifying the shared data if the ~~user~~ first participant has a sufficient access control level.

47. (Currently Amended): The apparatus of claim 46, further comprising:

means for generating a shared data update event indicating the modification; and

means for sending the shared data update event to ~~the server~~ at least one other participant.

48. (Currently Amended): The apparatus of claim 45, further comprising means for notifying the ~~user~~ first participant of insufficient access control if the ~~user~~ first participant does not have a sufficient access control level.

49. (Currently Amended): The apparatus of claim 43, further comprising:

means for receiving a shared data update event indicating a modification to the shared data;

means for modifying the shared data according to the shared data update event to form modified data; and

means for displaying a modified representation of the modified data in the rendered three-dimensional environment based on the access control level of the ~~user~~ first participant.

50. (Currently Amended): An apparatus, comprising:

presentation means for presenting a graphical user interface on a client computer associated with a first participant;

rendering means for rendering a three-dimensional environment from the perspective of [[a]] the first participant in the graphical user interface to form a rendered

three-dimensional environment, the three-dimensional environment including an avatar representing a second participant;

first receipt means for receiving a selection of the avatar from the first participant in the graphical user interface;

second receipt means for receiving a selection, in the graphical user interface, of a file to be transferred from the client computer associated with the first participant; and

transfer means for transferring the file to a client computer associated with the second participant.

51. (Original): The apparatus of claim 50, further comprising:

means for sending a transfer request to the second participant;

means for receiving an acceptance from the second participant;

wherein the transfer means transfers the file to the client computer in response to the means for receiving the acceptance.

52. (Currently Amended): A computer program product, in a computer readable medium, comprising:

instructions for rendering a three-dimensional environment on a client computer associated with a first participant to form a rendered three-dimensional environment;

instructions for receiving shared data from a client computer associated with a second participant, wherein the shared data ~~including~~ includes information to be shared between the second participant and the first participant and orientation information ~~from a server~~ that indicates where in the three-dimensional environment the second participant wishes to present the shared data; and

instructions for displaying a virtual representation of the shared data in the rendered three-dimensional environment on the client computer associated with the first participant based on the orientation information.

53. (Currently Amended): A computer program product, in a computer readable medium, comprising:

instructions for rendering a three-dimensional environment on a client computer associated with a first participant to form a rendered three-dimensional environment;

instructions for receiving shared data from a client computer associated with a second participant, wherein the shared data ~~including~~ includes information to be shared between the second participant and the first participant and access control information indicating an access control level for ~~a user from a server~~ the first participant; and

instructions for displaying a virtual representation of the shared data in the rendered three-dimensional environment on the client computer associated with the first participant based on the access control level of the ~~user~~ first participant.

54. (Currently Amended): A computer program product, in a computer readable medium, comprising:

instructions for presenting a graphical user interface on a client computer associated with a first participant;

instructions for rendering a three-dimensional environment from the perspective of [[a]] the first participant in the graphical user interface to form a rendered three-dimensional environment, the three-dimensional environment including an avatar representing a second participant;

instructions for receiving a selection of the avatar from the first participant in the graphical user interface;

instructions for receiving a selection, in the graphical user interface, of a file to be transferred from the client computer associated with the first participant; and

instructions for transferring the file to a client computer associated with the second participant.

A1